

Revolt 'Looks Successful,' Zablocki Says In D.C.

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(Washington Bureau of The Sun)

Washington, Nov. 1.—Representative Zablocki (D. Wis.), chairman of the special House study mission to Southeast Asia, said this afternoon that, on the basis of information available here, the military revolt in Vietnam "looks quite successful."

Zablocki also told a news conference his impression from State Department briefings was that the attempted coup d'etat came as "a complete surprise" to American officials.

"Simple Vietnamese Effort"

He stressed further that the Central Intelligence Agency was not involved in the revolt.

"It is purely, simple and positively a Vietnamese effort," Zablocki said.

The Wisconsin Democrat held a news conference to explain the report of his eight-member, seventeen-day mission to four countries of Southeast Asia last month. He moved up the date of its public release from Sunday

to today with news of the Saigon outbreak.

The House members, in their report on the Vietnam crisis, warned those who had recommended "the ouster of the Diem family" as a solution.

"Those who advocate such a course offer no specific alternatives," they said.

Rural Area Support

"The lesson of Cuba must not be forgotten—Batista was bad but Castro is worse. We feel that all agencies of the United States Government should move with great caution in this area."

Zablocki said, if there was a new government, its best chances of survival would come by having the broadest possible base of support. He said it would have to exclude Communist support, for that would lead to another Laos.

The House members found that President Ngo Dinh Diem had wide support in rural areas but "vocal opposition" in the large cities such as Saigon.

"If there was a coup, it was because of the displeasure of the intelligentsia and the military," he said.

The House members carefully traced the origin of the Diem regime's Buddhist troubles. They said the troubles did not arise because of religious persecution but added that repression was used when the Buddhists became the "rallying point" for opponents of the Government.

"Undemocratic And Vicious"

Zablocki said the Government crackdown on demonstrators was "undemocratic and vicious" although he admitted some may have been Communist inspired. These were followed by mass arrests.

"Among those indiscriminately arrested have been the children of Government officials and military personnel, the effect of which has been to create a growing restlessness among personnel," the report said.

"There is no doubt that Diem's regime is authoritarian," the Zablocki report said. "It must be pointed out in fairness, however, that many of the repressive measures which he has taken have been a direct result of the war."

Family Control Criticized

The congressional group said while they found no evidence that Diem was ruling for personal gain, or for his family's or friends' benefit, "concentration of governmental powers in the hands of one family for almost a decade is bound to arouse opposition and discontent."

The report blamed members of the Diem family for inflaming public opinion. They blamed the "Oriental oligarchy" for failing to understand the need for public support.

Other Cautious Reaction

The congressional mission said a broader base for the Government was "a pressing need." Zablocki noted that, in an interview with the President, Diem said he intended to gain broad support once the civil war ended.

The Zablocki group could offer no clues about the leadership of the revolt or its implications for the future. Such opinions, said the chairman, would be "speculative" and "premature."

Other reaction on Capitol Hill was equally cautious.

The news of the uprising in Vietnam came as a complete surprise to me and I am quite certain a surprise to the Administration," said Senator Mansfield, Senate majority leader.

"There have been rumors, of course, for weeks that a coup d'etat was in the making but there was nothing tangible to reinforce such an assumption up to this time," he continued.

"This appears to me to be a purely Vietnamese affair which the Vietnamese should settle among themselves," Mansfield said.

Policy Reappraisal

Mansfield told the Senate that the fighting "calls more than ever for a reassessment and reorientation of our policy in South Vietnam and, for that matter, in all of Southeast Asia."

Senator Backenlooper (R. Ex. 10), major foreign relations committee Republican, called it "a very serious situation" that requires careful study.

Sen. Allen (R. Minn.) said he did not know if American officials were involved in the operation. The United States was involved, he hoped there would be no further bloodshed.

It has been apparent for some time that something would have to happen in South Vietnam or we